



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Port Orange City Council

Reported by Amy Legare

May 19, 2026

The City Council approved by Consent Agenda contracts or modifications thereof for the new REC West center and purchase of properties for wastewater treatment projects. A resolution was approved for a supplemental agreement for a sidewalk project that has been in the works for 8 years. A Special Event license was also approved for Tiki Docks Bar & Grill at Riverwalk Park.

The mayor requested that the city provide citizens with information on who (city, county, or state) is responsible for acting based on citizen concerns.

Two Ordinances were passed for rezoning and future land use of 56.53 acres. Land use will be restricted to 1 unit/acre. Multiple citizens spoke against moving forward on this property based on the lack of a completed stormwater basin project and flooding concerns.

June 2, 2026

The Life-Pak 35 Cardiac Monitor was demonstrated for the council. This new device will be placed in all city emergency vehicles. It is upgradeable and compatible with AEDs and hospital equipment.

Contract bids and amendments were approved by Consent Agenda for the Causeway Park South Boat Ramp project, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Shared -Use Nonmotorized Trail project, City Center Sports Complex Expansion, and YMCA Fire Suppression System Modifications.

Several resolutions were approved by Consent Agenda for the budget for the YMCA Fire Suppression Modifications, waiver of Building Permit Fees to bring a Substantially Damaged Structure into Compliance, Approval to apply for a Volusia ECHO Grant Application for the Willow Run Park Expansion, Approval of State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Highway Lighting, Maintenance, and Compensation Agreement, amending the PY 2025 Annual Action Plan to make better use of HUD funding for the Memorial Park Multi-Use Trail Project.

City residents were advised to review the County Council presentation on property tax reform. The county predicts a loss of \$93M if the property tax calculations are changed pursuant to what is being proposed for the November election. Each municipality will be impacted differently depending on the number of homesteaded properties. Port Orange is 58% homesteaded property. City staff will evaluate the property tax information and



schedule a council workshop to discuss the impacts and future decisions. Information will be shared on the city's webpage.

Updates were provided on the potential development of Riverwalk, stormwater projects, and parks bond projects. Stormwater and parks project updates are provided on the city's webpage. Citizens are encouraged to contact council members if there are issues on stormwater projects.

The council denied an appeal of a city Planning Commission decision to deny a variance for a fence installed without a permit or property survey.

Volusia Flagler Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) - Port Orange will be poised to begin work when funds are available. \$963M over the next five years.

June 16, 2026

Bids and awards were approved by Consent Agenda for Riverwalk Park Playground renovations, the force and water main river crossing project, elevation of 13 flood-prone homes (FEMA grant), and demolition/rebuild of one flood-prone home (FEMA grant).

A resolution for approval for the YMCA to apply for a Volusia ECHO grant was passed by consent agenda even though a citizen pointed out that ECHO grants allow for unrestricted public use, yet YMCA use is membership only.

Several citizens spoke against the city's proposed utility rate increase. The city manager explained that this rate increase is the last of the four-year plan to spread out the increase recommended four years ago. The utility rate increase prior to 2023-2026 was in 2014. Utility fees go into an Enterprise Fund and can't be used elsewhere in the city and there are no profits to the city. Fees are used for maintenance and production. The rate increase was approved.

A citizen asked for help with a local feral cat population that was destroying his property. This was the second request for help. City Animal Control did speak with a person who was feeding the cats and asked them to stop. The Police Chief will follow up.

It was reported that Volusia Councilman Matt Reinhart is sponsoring a project to develop a public Volusia County Domestic Violence Database to track repeat offenders.

The Riverwalk mixed-use development project has a developer ready to present a conceptual design. A final request for proposals will be advertised.



Stormwater projects (<https://www.port-orange.org/1316/Projects>) and parks and rec (<https://www.port-orange.org/1201/Project-Updates>) projects are moving ahead.

Ordinance 2026-8, first reading to modify property use, was passed 3-2 after lengthy discussion clearly stating that future development of residential property with 40-foot-wide parcels was not acceptable to the city. Development plans including apartment complexes were also not acceptable.

Ordinance 2026-6, first reading was passed 5-0, to clarify residency requirements in the city charter prior to running for city office. This item will be a referendum on the November ballot.

Council passed a motion to allow removal of 5 historic trees in the Harbor Landing subdivision. Trees will be replaced to the maximum extent allowed prior to funds being paid into the city's Tree Mitigation Bank.